

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 07875 161832Z

50

ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 DHA-02 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AGR-10 EUR-12 AID-05

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 CIEP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 HEW-06 IGA-01 ARA-10 EA-09

NEA-10 /166 W

----- 003007

P 161658Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6334

UNCLAS GENEVA 7875

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: CAPE VERDIANS FROM ANGOLA

1. UNHCR DELIVERED FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE ON THE SITUATION OF
CAPE VERDIANS FROM ANGOLA:

QUOTE: THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS ARE LOCATED 600 KM. OFF THE
WESTERNMOST TIP OF AFRICA AT 16 DEGREES NORTH. THE AREA TOTALING
4,033 KM. HAS A POPULATION ESTIMATED AT 250,000 TO 300,000
PEOPLE, OF WHOM HALF LIVE ON THE MAIN ISLAND OF SANTIAGO. ON 5
JULY 1975 THE REPUBLIC OF THE CAPE VERDE ISLAND BECAME INDE-
PENDENT. ITS CAPITAL IS PRAIA.

THE MIGRATION OF CAPE VERDIAN PEOPLE HAS BEEN A GREAT
PHENOMENON SINCE LONG AGO. CAPE VERDIANS LIVING ABROAD OUT-
NUMBER THE POPULATION ON THE ISLANDS. THEY HAD LEFT THEIR
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IN SEARCH OF WORK AND WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE
FORMER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION TO SETTLE IN ANGOLA WHERE
ECONOMIC PROSPECTS SEEMED TO BE AND WERE IN FACT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GENEVA 07875 161832Z

BRIGHTER. ONE REASON FOR THIS WAS THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM PREVAILING

IN THE ISLANDS WHEREBY ITS LARGE FOREIGN TRADE DEFICIT WAS PARTIALLY COVERED INSIDE THE PORTUGUESE COLONIAL SYSTEM (PORTUGAL, ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE). THE MAIN EXPORT PRODUCTS OF THE ISLANDS WERE BANANAS, COFFEE AND SALT. SINCE 1969, HOWEVER, THE DROUGHT PREVAILING IN THE REGION STRUCK THE ISLANDS AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION HAS BEEN INSIGNIFICANT. AN IMPROVEMENT IS HOWEVER EXPECTED THIS YEAR AS A RESULT OF GOOD AND TIMELY RAINS.

THE POSITION OF THE APPROXIMATELY 40,000 CAPE VERDIANS WHO HAVE BEEN LIVING AND WORKING IN ANGOLA FOR SEVERAL YEARS OR GENERATIONS HAS BECOME VULNERABLE FOLLOWING THE GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL IN RECENT MONTHS OF THE PORTUGUESE POWER. THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE THREE RIVAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (FNLA, MPLA, UNITA) HAS ACCENTUATED THE GRAVITY OF THIS SITUATION. THE CAPE VERDIANS IN ANGOLA NOW REPORTEDLY SUFFER FROM A FEELING OF INSECURITY AND FEAR OF PERSECUTION. OVER 6,000 CAPE VERDIANS HAVE ALREADY FLOODED INTO LUANDA WHERE THEY NOW LIVE IN MISERABLE CONDITIONS AWAITING THEIR EVACUATION. THEY COME FROM THE REGIONS OUTSIDE LUANDA WHERE THEIR MAINSTAY WAS AGRICULTURE. APART FROM THOSE IN LUANDA, THERE WERE SOME 1,000 CAPE VERDIANS LIVING IN PRECARIOUS CONDITIONS IN NOVA LISBOA. THEY HAVE SINCE BEEN EVACUATED BY UNHCR AS DISCUSSED BELOW, MOST OF THEM TO CAPE VERDE WHILE A SMALL GROUP COULD NOT BE MOVED FURTHER THAN LUANDA.

IN JULY 1975, THE GOVERNMENT OF CAPE VERDE REQUESTED THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) TO RENDER HIS ASSISTANCE:

(A) TOWARDS THE RESETTLEMENT OF THESE PEOPLE IN THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS WHERE ALREADY SOME 3,000 HAD ARRIVED, NOT COUNTING AN ADDITIONAL 2,000 WHO HAD COME FROM PORTUGAL;

(B) TOWARDS THE TRANSPORT OF THE CAPE VERDIANS FROM ANGOLA TO THE ISLANDS AND THEIR RESETTLEMENT THERE;

(C) TO FIND SOLUTIONS FOR THEIR SETTLEMENT OUTSIDE THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, WHEREVER THIS MAY BE POSSIBLE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GENEVA 07875 161832Z

RECOGNIZING THE SCALE AND VARIETY OF HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND THE INCREASING COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEMS, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AGREED TO PLACE THE EXPERTISE AND COMPETENCE OF HIS OFFICE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A JOINT UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE RETURNEES IN THE ISLANDS.

MEANWHILE, FOLLOWING ALARMING REPORTS FROM THE UNHCR

REPRESENTATIVE IN LUANDA IN LATE SEPTEMBER, UNHCR ORGANIZED AN URGENT AIRLIFT OF THE APPROXIMATELY 1,000 CAPE VERDIANS IN NOVA LISBOA. THE URGENCY HAD STEMMED FROM THE FACT THAT PORTUGUESE TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS AT THE NOVA LISBOA AIRPORT WERE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE THE CITY BY OCTOBER 4, WHICH WOULD HAVE MADE IMPOSSIBLE ANY LONG DISTANCE FLIGHTS AFTER THAT DATE. TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS AIRLIFT OPERATION, WHICH WAS COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE, A SUM OF \$200,000 WAS ADVANCED BY UNHCR.

AS OF THIS WRITING, MORE THAN 6,000 CAPE VERDIANS ARE STILL IN LUANDA. REPORTS REACHING UNHCR CONFIRM THE IMPERATIVE NEED TO EVACUATE THIS GROUP BY AIR TO CAPE VERDE BEFORE OCTOBER 31 WHEN, IT IS BELIEVED, THE OPERATIONS AT THE LUANDA AIRPORT MAY COME TO A STANDSTILL. LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT AND THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOUND, IF THE EVACUATION OPERATION FOR THE REMAINING CAPE VERDIANS IN LUANDA IS TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THIS DEADLINE. TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR THE GROUP IN QUESTION INCLUDING RELATED EXPENDITURES ON THE GROUND AT BOTH POINTS, ARE ESTIMATED AT \$1,500,000. IN ADDITION, SOME \$250,000 WILL BE REQUIRED TO COVER IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO THE REPATRIANTS UPON RETURN IN THE SECTORS OF HEALTH AND SHELTER, AND TRANSFER TO ISLAND OF FINAL DESTINATION. FINALLY, IT HAS BEEN CALCULATED THAT SOME \$1 MILLION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR RELIEF AND DURABLE RESETTLEMENT MEASURES FOR ONE YEAR FOR THE WHOLE GROUP OF 7,000 REPATRIANTS. OF THIS LATTER AMOUNT, NOT MORE THAN 50 PERCENT CAN BE COVERED FROM RESOURCES PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO UNDP AND WFP.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IS PRESENTLY WORKING OUT FINAL PLANS TO LAUNCH, WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK, THE EVACUATION OPERATION. HOWEVER IN VIEW OF THE CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 GENEVA 07875 161832Z

THE UN FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ENTER INTO THE URGENT AND SIZEABLE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS WHICH THE SITUATION REQUIRES, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE AMOUNTS MENTIONED ABOVE FOR TRANSPORTATION AND RECEPTION, UNLESS HE RECEIVES AN INDICATION THAT APPROPRIATE FUNDS WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM DONOR COUNTRIES. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS WILL VERY SHORTLY LAUNCH AN APPEAL TO GOVERNMENTS ON THE ABOVE URGENT REQUIREMENTS. UNQUOTE

2. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER STRESSED POINT THAT THESE PEOPLE MUST BE MOVED FROM LUANDA BY OCTOBER 30 AS AIRPORT OPERATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CEASE AT THAT TIME. UNHCR IS IN URGENT NEED OF FUNDS AND REQUESTS SUBSTANTIAL USG ASSISTANCE. ABRAMS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA07875
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750359-0434
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751048/aaaabqnb.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 DEC 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2004 by GolinoFR>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAPE VERDIANS FROM ANGOLA
TAGS: SREF, CV, AO, UNHCR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006